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County Employment and Wages in Idaho – First Quarter 2015

Idaho's only large county, Ada, reported an employment increase of 2.1 percent from March 2014 to March 2015 the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with 2014 annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more.) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the rate of employment growth in Ada County matched the national increase of 2.1 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, employment increased in 323 of the 342 largest U.S. counties from March 2014 to March 2015. Utah, Utah, had the largest percentage increase in employment at 6.7 percent. Atlantic, N.J., had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 4.3 percent.

Employment in Ada County stood at 212,700 in March 2015, accounting for nearly one third of total employment in Idaho. Nationwide, the 342 largest counties made up 72.3 percent of total U.S. employment which stood at 137.4 million in March 2015.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 43 counties in Idaho with employment below 75,000. All except one of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average in the first quarter of 2015. (See [table 2.](#))

Large county wage changes

From the first quarter of 2014 to the first quarter of 2015, the average weekly wage in Ada County advanced 2.0 percent, just below the national increase of 2.1 percent. Ada's percentage change in average weekly wages ranked 142nd among the 342 largest U.S. counties. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, 297 of the 342 largest counties had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Olmsted, Minn., had the largest percentage wage increase among the largest U.S. counties (11.7 percent). Washington, Pa., was second with a wage increase of 10.7 percent, followed by the counties of Riverside, Calif. (10.1 percent); Lake, Ill. (9.2 percent); and Orange, Calif. (9.1 percent).

Of the 342 largest U.S. counties, 39 experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Snohomish, Wash., had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages, with a loss of 4.8 percent. Chester, Pa., had the second largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-4.0 percent), followed by Williamson, Texas (-3.1 percent); Saginaw, Mich. (-2.4 percent); and Palm Beach, Fla. (-2.0 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Ada County's average weekly wage of \$873 ranked in the bottom half among the 342 largest U.S. counties. Nationally, the average weekly wage was \$1,048 in the first quarter of 2015.

Nationwide, 93 large counties registered average weekly wage above the U.S. average in the first quarter of 2015. New York, N.Y., recorded the highest average weekly wage at \$2,847, followed by Santa Clara, Calif., at \$2,203. Rounding out the top five were Somerset, N.J. (\$2,080); San Francisco, Calif. (\$2,070); and San Mateo, Calif. (\$2,066).

Seventy-three percent of the largest U.S. counties (248) reported weekly wages below the national average. Horry County, S.C., reported the lowest wage (\$583), followed by the Texas counties of Cameron and Hidalgo (\$593 and \$607); Lake, Fla. (\$649); and Yakima, Wash. (\$658).

Average weekly wages in Idaho's smaller counties

Among the 43 counties in Idaho with employment below 75,000, only Butte County (\$1,463) had an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,048. Boise County reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state, averaging \$382 in the first quarter of 2015. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 44 counties in Idaho were considered, 3 reported average weekly wages under \$500, 12 reported wages from \$500 to \$599, 17 had wages from \$600 to \$699, 6 had wages from \$700 to \$799, and 6 had wages at \$800 or above. (See [chart 1](#).)

Additional statistics and other information

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the [Technical Note](#) or visit www.bls.gov/cew.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2014 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2015 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2014* are now available online at <https://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn14.htm>. The 2015 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2016.

The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2015 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, December 17, 2015.

Technical Note

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 9.5 million employer reports cover 137.4 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in

the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/cew/; however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the largest county in Idaho, first quarter 2015

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾			
	March 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2014-15 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, first quarter 2014-15 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	137,412.4	2.1	--	\$1,048	--	2.1	--
Idaho	650.3	3.1	--	736	50	2.2	19
Ada, Idaho	212.7	2.1	155	873	209	2.0	142

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Idaho, first quarter 2015

Area	Employment March 2015	Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾
United States ⁽²⁾	137,412,381	\$1,048
Idaho	650,302	736
Ada	212,706	873
Adams	924	598
Bannock	33,310	620
Bear Lake	1,566	511
Benewah	3,273	709
Bingham	14,044	621
Blaine	12,089	739
Boise	1,678	382
Bonner	12,423	619
Bonneville	49,964	714
Boundary	3,334	585
Butte	3,566	1,463
Camas	447	1,039
Canyon	57,592	630
Caribou	3,115	960
Cassia	10,265	607
Clark	389	834
Clearwater	2,690	652
Custer	1,195	745
Elmore	6,356	600
Franklin	3,167	489
Fremont	2,453	589
Gem	3,413	538
Gooding	5,762	649
Idaho	4,084	652
Jefferson	5,877	539
Jerome	9,757	636
Kootenai	53,738	674
Latah	13,174	680
Lemhi	2,145	566
Lewis	1,580	579
Lincoln	1,509	600
Madison	13,374	555
Minidoka	7,311	630
Nez Perce	20,561	746
Oneida	1,064	483
Owyhee	2,801	597
Payette	6,042	632
Power	3,218	732
Shoshone	4,464	842
Teton	2,633	570
Twin Falls	35,931	609
Valley	3,689	623
Washington	2,793	555

Footnotes

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

NOTE: Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, first quarter 2015

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	March 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2014-15	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2014-15	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	137,412.4	2.1	\$1,048	--	2.1	--
Alabama	1,873.5	1.3	844	39	2.2	19
Alaska	322.2	1.0	1,051	15	2.6	10
Arizona	2,605.6	2.5	926	23	1.0	45
Arkansas	1,166.6	1.3	790	47	0.8	47
California	16,029.5	3.0	1,207	6	3.7	3
Colorado	2,458.0	3.7	1,071	13	2.4	16
Connecticut	1,640.5	0.8	1,382	3	1.5	35
Delaware	422.8	2.5	1,105	9	-0.5	51
District of Columbia	732.6	1.4	1,764	1	3.2	4
Florida	8,018.0	3.6	885	28	1.8	27
Georgia.....	4,107.0	3.5	989	18	1.7	31
Hawaii.....	633.7	1.3	881	31	2.8	9
Idaho	650.3	3.1	736	50	2.2	19
Illinois	5,724.6	1.2	1,130	7	2.4	16
Indiana.....	2,894.8	1.8	857	35	1.4	38
Iowa	1,504.3	1.3	848	37	2.9	7
Kansas	1,357.1	1.0	851	36	1.4	38
Kentucky.....	1,810.3	1.5	823	41	1.5	35
Louisiana	1,927.1	1.0	885	28	2.0	21
Maine.....	571.4	0.9	793	45	0.9	46
Maryland.....	2,540.8	1.2	1,113	8	2.5	12
Massachusetts	3,338.6	1.7	1,341	4	3.2	4
Michigan	4,079.5	1.8	969	21	1.9	24
Minnesota.....	2,709.2	1.8	1,079	12	4.3	1
Mississippi.....	1,102.3	0.6	711	51	0.7	48
Missouri	2,678.0	1.7	882	30	1.8	27
Montana	441.0	2.7	750	49	2.6	10
Nebraska	943.1	1.4	818	42	2.5	12
Nevada	1,227.7	3.7	865	34	-0.2	50
New Hampshire.....	623.5	1.5	982	20	1.2	43
New Jersey.....	3,834.6	1.4	1,288	5	1.9	24
New Mexico	798.7	1.4	805	43	1.5	35
New York	8,865.0	1.9	1,463	2	0.2	49
North Carolina	4,099.4	2.5	930	22	1.9	24
North Dakota	436.0	1.6	984	19	4.2	2
Ohio	5,144.5	1.4	922	24	1.4	38
Oklahoma	1,592.7	1.3	869	33	2.0	21
Oregon	1,748.7	3.5	919	25	2.9	7
Pennsylvania	5,606.9	0.9	1,031	16	2.4	16
Rhode Island	456.1	1.4	1,008	17	1.2	43
South Carolina.....	1,919.1	2.5	801	44	1.8	27
South Dakota.....	406.5	1.5	763	48	3.0	6
Tennessee	2,772.7	2.1	886	27	1.4	38
Texas	11,557.0	2.9	1,089	10	2.5	12
Utah	1,318.8	3.7	845	38	1.7	31
Vermont.....	303.9	0.9	824	40	2.0	21
Virginia.....	3,649.3	1.1	1,068	14	1.7	31
Washington.....	3,064.4	3.2	1,087	11	1.8	27
West Virginia	692.4	-0.3	792	46	1.4	38
Wisconsin	2,734.3	1.5	877	32	2.5	12
Wyoming	277.8	0.8	892	26	1.7	31
Puerto Rico.....	904.9	-1.1	524	(3)	1.0	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	38.5	0.0	738	(3)	-0.7	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

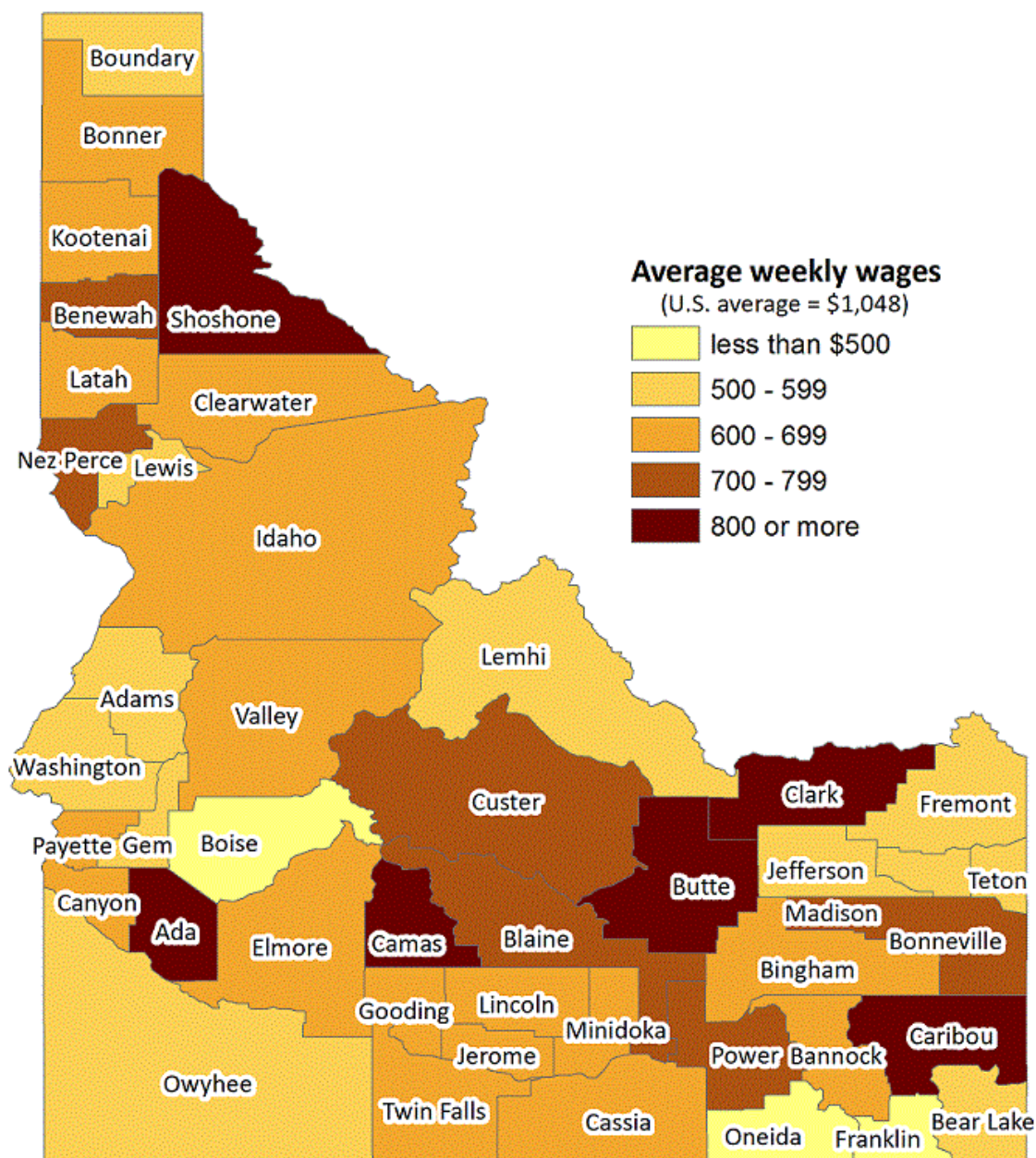
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Idaho, first quarter 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.